

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 ISO-00 NEA-09 FEA-01 ERDA-05

AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 FPC-01

H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03

SAM-01 OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 FRB-03 PA-01

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, JA

SUBJECT: PRESS FALL-OUT FROM JAPAN'S PRODUCER/CONSUMER OIL SYM-
POSIUM

REF: TOKYO 4120

1. BOTH JAPANESE AND ENGLISH-LANGUAGE PAPERS PAST FEW
DAYS HAVE CARRIED ARTICLES BASED ON INTERVIEWS WITH SOME
PARTICIPANTS IN UNOFFICIAL OIL SYMPOSIUM (REFTEL) INCLUDING
ABDEL AZIZ ALWATTARI (IRAQ), FAUD W. ITAYIM (EDITOR AND
PUBLISHER MIDDLE EAST ECONOMIC SURVEY), AND JOHN LICHTBLAU
(EXEC DIRECTOR PETROLEUM INDUSTRY RESEARCH FOUNDATION
NEW YORK). PRESS TREATMENT OF VIEWS ATTRIBUTED TO FIRST
TWO INDICATE SHARP HOSTILITY TOWARD IEA AND US OIL
STRATEGY.

2. ENGLISH-LANGUAGE MAINICHI APRIL 3 HAS FRONT-PAGE
HEADLINE "IEA
TOL OF AMERICAN MIDDLE EAST POLICY."

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ARTICLE OSTENSIBLY BASED ON ALWATTORI INTERVIEW, SAYS

HE WARNED CONSUMER NATION MEMBERS OF IEA TO GET OUT OF IT UNLESS THEY WANT TO BE INVOLVED IN US MID-EAST POLICY AND CARRY BURDEN OF AMERICAN POLICY IF THERE IS WAR IN M.E. ALWATTARI ALLEGEDLY REFERRED TO POSSIBILITY OF ANOTHER OIL EMBARGO AND SAID SITUATION WILL BE EVEN SEVERER THAN IN PAST BECAUSE OF IEA AND IF IEA MEMBERS ENDORSE AMERICAN M.E. POLICY THEY WILL BE SUBJECT TO SAME TREATMENT AS U.S. ALWATTARI PREDICTED INDEXATION OF OIL PRICE PER FORMULA OF ALGIERS CONFERENCE -- 80 PERCENT OF INFLATION RATE IN FIRST YEAR AND UP TO 100 PERCENT FOR THIRD YEAR.

2. ITAYIM, IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE ASAHI EVENING APRIL 3, SAYS NO DROP IN OIL PRICES CAN BE EXPECTED AS PRODUCERS ARE PREPARED CUT PRODUCTION FURTHER IF DEMAND CONTINUES TO DECLINE. ARTICLE CLAIMS OPEC IS SETTING UP "SAFETY NET" OF ITS OWN TO HELP OPEC MEMBERS IF BURDEN OF PRODUCTION CUTS TOO HEAVY AND THREATENED MAINTENANCE OF OIL PRICE.

3. VIEWS ATTRIBUTED TO LICHTBLAU WERE UNDRAMATIC ALTHOUGH MAINICHI CARRIED HIS REMARKS UNDER CAPTION "FLOOR PRICE FOR OIL UNREALISTIC" (ALTHOUGH ARTICLE ITSELF CONTAINS NOTHING ATTRIBUTED TO LICHTBLAU TO SUPPORT CAPTION).

4. WE ASKED FONOFF (KAYA) WHETHER WE COULD HAVE ACCESS TO ANY SUMMARY OF SYMPOSIUM. HE SAID REPORT BEING PREPARED, MIGHT TAKE "SOME WEEKS" TO COMPLETE, AND HE WOULD TRY TO GIVE US COPY WHEN AVAILABLE.
SHOESMITH

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